सारा राशन ब्लैक में जाएगा जैसे इस देश की नियति है, आम आदमी को मिलेगा नहीं जिसे सरकार देना चाहती है। इससे पीड़ा और पैदा होगी। इसलिए मैंने यह जो कोट किया है चावल के बारे में कमिश्नर ने कहा है, "गढ़बाल में इस समय चावल एवं सुपरफाइन चावल की काफी कमी है। विकासनगर डिपो एवं अन्य गोदामों में भी चावल नहीं है" अब यह कमीश्नर का कहना है। कमीश्नर की विज्ञप्ति है। इस पीड़ा को आप समझ सकते हैं। आजकल वहां बरसात हो रही है, रास्ते टूट गये हैं। अगर गोदामों में अन्न नहीं होगा तो वहां के समाज में क्या अवस्था आने वाली होगी? इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से, इस सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं जो अपने रोज़मर्रा के कामों में उलझी हुई है, सरकार थोड़ा उस क्षेत्र पर विचार करे क्योंकि खाद्य का विषय, पी०डी०एस० का विषय केंद्र सरकार का विषय है। इसलिए केन्द्र उसका निदान करे। आपने मुझे अवसर दिया, बहुत बुहत धन्यवाद। **(व्यवधान)**

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): मैं भी संबद्ध करता हूं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will take up rest of the Zero Hour mentions and Special Mentions after lunch. The House is adjourned for lunch for an hour.

The House, then, adjourned for lunch at five minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at five minutes past two of the clock.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri Sanatan Bisi): in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Hon. Members, before we take up the Zero Hour submissions and the Special Mentions, a Bill has to be introduced by the hon. Minister. I think I have the permission of the House. Mr. Minister, introduce your Bill.

THE EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The question was proposed.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, this House has been worried about the payment of wages. The Provident Fund itself has never been protected. There are so many complaints in this regard. If wages are not being paid, then what is the use of bringing this auxiliary Bill? Many public sector units are being closed. There are a lot of complaints with regard to PF in private sector. The Act which exists is not being enforced. What exactly is the purpose of this Bill, we cannot understand it.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: What is proposed is an increase of 2% on the rate of contribution.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: More so, he was in the Ministry of Finance and now, he is in the Ministry of Labour *...(interruptions)...* That is why, it is very relevant, we must know with what purpose this being brought when you are retrenching the workers. with regard to revival package, this morning there was so much *halla gulla* in this House because the Government could not respond *...(interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): The House is aware of it *...(interruptions)...*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: There may be arrears. That is a different questions. If the hon. Member so desires, I can compute the percentage of arrears and tell him. But this Bill will help lakhs of workers; lakhs of workers will get benefit out of it. All industries are not in a bad state *...(interruptions)...*

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: How?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): When we consider the Bill, we can discuss at length *...(interruptions)...*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: All industries are not closed. Only some units were closed. All the industries are not closed ...*(interruptions)*... It is not only few public sector undertakings but whoever pays the provident fund, either public, private or any other industry ...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): So, at the time of conisderation, the Members will have the opportunity to seek clarifications.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I will answer all queries when we discuss the Bill...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, the point is, today, there are so many workers who are not getting their salaries and provident fund....*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Mr. Pradhan, please, sit down...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, try to understand the problem. There are so many workers who are not receiving their provident fund in proper time...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Those issues we can discuss at the time of consideration...*(interruptions)*... We can discuss at that time...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, my colleagues are worried as to how can we allow such things to be introduced without even understanding the basic purpose. Only this morning we found that out of six fertilizer units, four are being just wound up an Barauni was one of the pride chemical industries of the country — as a student of economics, I used to hear that for the first time a fertilizer unit had been set up — and now that pioneering unit is being wound up. The unit is something of a national pride. Then, what about the textile industry? So many times, my friends here, there and everywhere have spoken about this. Sometimes, we get one assurance and sometimes, we get another assurance. We move from assurance to another assurance. that is why I said that he has moved from the Ministry of Finance where he had not allocated to the Ministry of Labour necessary funds for the public sector units. So, he may consider something better now for labour. That is why he must advocate the cause of these closed units or the units which are going to be closed. The need is really to discuss the entire policy so that we come to know about these lollipops or small tokens being just made that your provident fund will be protected later on when the basic employment is at stake.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Mr. Chaturvedi, when the Bill is discussed at length, you will discuss all these things ...*(interruptions)*... You can raise all these things then...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: These are some of the implications we would like to discuss when we consider the Bill...*(interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Okay. Now, the question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We continue with the Zero Hour submissions. Shri N. Thalavai Sundaram.

RE. NON-FILLING OF SC/ST POSTS BY TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT

SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the policy of reservation was adopted to ensure upward mobility of the deprived